Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 5, 12 and 19. Please amend Claims 1, 8, 15, 22 and 23. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.   (Currently amended) A computer method for generating a response output to be provided to a user of a computer; the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a response representation specifying a structured output for use as the basis for the response output to the user, the response representation associated with a domain model for a speech-enabled application;

selecting a syntax template based on a goal-directed rule invoked in response to the response representation, including generating a goal based on the response representation and determining the selected syntax template based on the goal-directed rule selected from a goal-oriented rules database based on the goal, the goal-directed rule identifying the selected syntax template; and

producing the response output based on the selected syntax template, the response representation, and the domain model.

2.   (Original) The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the response representation is received from a reasoning facility that generates the response representation based on the domain model, a goal-directed rules database, and a spoken utterance provided by the user.

3.   (Original) The computer method of Claim 2, wherein the response representation is a goal or proposition based on the spoken utterance.

4.   (Original) The computer method of Claim 3, wherein the proposition comprises an attribute, an object, and a value.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original) The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the domain model comprises an ontological description of the domain model based on entities, classes, and attributes, and a lexicon providing synonyms and parts of speech information for elements of the ontological description.

7.   (Original) The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the response output is a text string capable of conversion to audio output.

8.   (Currently amended) A system for generating a response output to be provided to a user of a computer, the system comprising:

a language generator for receiving a response representation specifying a structured output for use as the basis for the response output to the user, the response representation associated with a domain model for a speech-enabled application; and

a reasoning facility coupled to the language generator, the reasoning facility for selecting a syntax template based on a goal-directed rule invoked in response to the response representation, the language generator producing the response output based on the selected syntax template, the response representation, and the domain model, wherein the language generator generates a goal based on the response representation and provides the goal to the reasoning facility, and the reasoning facility determines the selected syntax template based on the goal-directed rule selected from a goal-oriented rules database based on the goal, the goal-directed rule identifying the selected syntax template.

9.   (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the language generator receives the response representation from the reasoning facility that generates the response representation based on the domain model, a goal-directed rules database, and a spoken utterance provided by the user.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the response representation is a goal or proposition based on the spoken utterance.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein the proposition comprises an attribute, an object, and a value.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the domain model comprises an ontological description of the domain model based on entities, classes, and attributes, and a lexicon providing synonyms and parts of speech information for elements of the ontological description.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the response output is a text string capable of conversion to audio output.

15. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium for generating a response output to be provided to a user of a computer;

a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer usable medium, including instructions to:

receive a response representation specifying a structured output for use as the basis for the response output to the user, the response representation associated with a domain model for a speech-enabled application;

select a syntax template based on a goal-directed rule invoked in response to the response representation, including generating a goal based on the response representation and determining the selected syntax template based on the goal-directed rule selected from a goal-oriented rules database based on the goal, the goal-directed rule identifying the selected syntax template; and

produce the response output based on the selected syntax template, the response representation, and the domain model.

16.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the response representation is received from a reasoning facility that generates the response representation based on the domain model, a goal-directed rules database, and a spoken utterance provided by the user.

17.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the response representation is a goal or proposition based on the spoken utterance.

18.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 17, wherein the proposition comprises an attribute, an object, and a value.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the domain model comprises an ontological description of the domain model based on entities, classes, and attributes, and a lexicon providing synonyms and parts of speech information for elements of the ontological description.

21.   (Original) The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein the response output is a text string capable of conversion to audio output.

22.   (Currently amended) A system for generating a response output to be provided to a user of a computer; the system comprising:

means for receiving a response representation specifying a structured output for use as the basis for the response output to the user, the response representation associated with a domain model for a speech-enabled application;

means for selecting a syntax template based on a goal-directed rule invoked in response to the response representation, including generating a goal based on the response representation and determining the selected syntax template based on the goal-directed rule selected from a goal-oriented rules database based on the goal, the goal-directed rule identifying the selected syntax template; and

means for producing the response output based on the selected syntax template, the response representation, and the domain model.

23.   (Currently amended) A computer program propagated signal product comprising:

a computer usable propagated medium for generating a response output to be provided to a user of a computer; and

a set of computer program instructions embodied on the computer usable propagated medium, including instructions to:

receive a response representation specifying a structured output for use as the basis for the response output to the user, the response representation associated with a domain model for a speech-enabled application;

select a syntax template based on a goal-directed rule invoked in response to the response representation, including generating a goal based on the response representation and determining the selected syntax template based on the goal-directed rule selected from a goal-oriented rules database based on the goal, the goal-directed rule identifying the selected syntax template; and

produce the response output based on the selected syntax template, the response representation, and the domain model.